

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-14 DRC-01 AF-10 /197 W

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R 141045Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1864

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 3047

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: VISIT OF OMAR AL SAQQAF SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF STATE SAQQAF DEPARTED
PHILIPPINES MAR 13 AS CONTINUED FRIEND OF GOP. EXTENSIVE
PROPAGANDA EFFORT MARSHALLED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS OVER-
WHELMED COUNTER EFFORTS BY LOCAL MUSLIMS ASSISTED BY SOME
MUSLIM DIPLOMATS. SAQQAF PROBABLY ALREADY CONVINCED THAT
GOP SHOULD BE ASSISTED IN ATTEMPTING TO END FIGHTING IN
SOUTH. HIS DISINTEREST IN TAKING REBEL SIDE FORTIFIED BY
MARCOS' REVELATION TO HIM OF EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION OF
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ALLEGED MALAYSIAN SUPPORT FOR REBELS. DOCUMENTATION ALSO

PROVIDED TO U.S. IN MANNER REMINISCENT OF GOP ACTION
DURING 1968 CONFRONTATION WITH MALAYSIA. GOP DID NOT PULL
WOOL OVER SAQQAF'S EYES BUT IT APPEARS TEMPORARILY TO HAVE
STRENGTHENED HIS SYMPATHY FOR GOP IN MUSLIM CONFLICT AND MAY
HAVE OBTAINED HIS SUPPORT FOR GOP AS "FRIENDLY" FOR OIL SUPPLY
PURPOSES. SURFACING OF DOCUMENTATION AGAINST MALAYSIANS, HOWEVER,
IS MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF VISIT. ASIDE FROM PUTTING MALAYSIANS
ON NOTICE THAT GOP CAN PLAY PROPAGANDA GAME, IT MAY HAVE
PUT MALAYSIANS ON DEFENSIVE WITH OTHER MUSLIMS, PARTICULARLY
ARABS. GOP MAY FEEL IT HAS MADE POINT SUFFICIENTLY FOR NOW
BUT IT COULD EASILY ESCALATE CHARGES IF MALAYSIA
RESPONDS. NEXT ROUND MAY BE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR,
MAY, 1974.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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R 141045Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1865

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 3047

1. DURING 5-DAY VISIT WHICH ENDED MAR 13, GOP MADE ALL OUT
EFFORT TO WOO SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF STATE OMAR SAQQAF.

GOP REGARDED SAQQAF AS KEY TO OBTAINING ARAB SUPPORT ON TWO PROBLEMS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO PHILS--OIL AND MUSLIM PROBLEM IN THE SOUTH. PRELIMINARY BALANCE SHEET WOULD SUGGEST GOP SUCCESSFUL.

2. GOP EFFORT TO IMPRESS SAQQAF COMPOSED OF EFFUSIVE IF NOT ALWAYS SKILLFUL BLEND OF HOSPITALITY, PRESS TREATMENT, BRIEFINGS AND GOVERNMENT ACTION. PRESS LAUDED SAQQAF AND GOP'S COMMITMENT TO ASSIST MUSLIMS AD NAUSEAM. IT REITERATED CONSISTANTLY GOP'S FAVORITE THEME THAT TROUBLE IN SOUTH DUE EXCLUSIVELY TO MAOISTS. GOP OUTDID ITSELF FOR SAQQAF, TREATING HIM AS STATE VISITOR AND EXTENDING MORE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY THAN THAT OFFERED TO LATEST VIP VISITORS. WITHIN CONTEXT OF HOSPITALITY, GOP
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MIXED SLICK BRIEFINGS AND TALKS WITH TAME MUSLIM REBELS WITH CONSIDERABLE CHARM OF MARCOSES. MARCOS SUPPLEMENTED SOFT SOAP WITH POTENTIALLY VERY CONSTRUCTIVE STATEMENT ON MUSLIM PROBLEM THAT ANCESTRAL LANDS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY MUSLIMS WOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR EXCLUSIVE OWNERSHIP OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT PAKISTANI AND MALAYSIAN MISSIONS AS WELL AS SOME INDIGENOUS OPPONENTS OF MARCOS' ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHMADE VERY DELIBERATE EFFORT TO COUNTER GOP PROPAGANDA EFFORT. MALAYSIAN ATTEMPTED TO COUNTER GOP PROPAGANDA THWARTED, HOWEVER, BY SAQQAF'S REFUSAL TO SEE MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR

4. GOP APPEARS TO HAVE WON PROPAGANDA BATTLE AND TO HAVE RETAINED GOOD WILL OF SAQQAF. DURING COURSE OF VISIT SAQQAF INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO ASSIST GOP IN FINDING SOLUTION TO CONFLICT AND ALSO NOTED PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFTER FIGHTING HAS STOPPED. PRESS CARRIED REPORT THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY.

5. SUCCESS OF GOP PRESUMABLY DUE INITIALLY TO FACT THAT SAQQAF PERSUADED THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF CONFLICT IS MORE DESIRABLE IN LONG RUN THAN EXACERBATION OF CONFLICT. ON BASIS OF SOME REPORTS TO EMBASSY, GOP'S PROPAGANDA EFFORTS MAY HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY THE UNSOPHISTICATED ANTICS OF LOCAL MUSLIM OPPOSITION WHO OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND WITH MIDDLE EAST ARISTOCRAT. MARCOS PROBABLY CLINCHED CASE BY SHOWING SAQQAF EXCERPTS OF DOCUMENTS WHICH GOP HAS PUT TOGETHER SUPPORTING ITS CONTENTION IN RATHER FULSOME DETAIL THAT MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUPPORTING DISSIDENTS IN MINDANAO. ALTHOUGH THIS ACTION NO DOUBT HELPED CARRY THE DAY FOR GOP, SAQQAF REPORTEDLY VERY SHREWD IN HIS APPRAISAL

OF ARGUMENTATION BY BOTH SIDES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WOOL
PULLED OVER HIS EYES AND WE SPECIFICALLY AWARE HE DISMISSED
GOP ALLEGATION THAT TROUBLE IN SOUTH DUE ONLY TO MAOISTS.

6. PRESENTATION OF GOP DOCUMENTATION AGAINST MALAYSIA
CONSTITUTED RATHER NEAT RIPOSTE TO EMBARRASSING CANCELLATION
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OF VISIT TO JOLO. SAQQAF HAD IN FACT EXTENDED VISIT TO
PHILIPPINES FOR TWO DAYS TO ENCOMPASS TRIP TO JOLO. GOP
ALLOWED ANNOUNCEMENT OF JOLO TRIP TO RECEIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
AND PREPARATION ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY WHEN BOTH GOP AND
SAQQAF'S ADVISORS CONCLUDED THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN JOLO
WOULD PRECLUDE VISIT. SINCE SAQQAF INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR
THAT HE WOULD RESTRICT FINANCIAL HELP TO FOOD AND CLOTHING
UNTIL PEACE HAD BEEN RESTORED, HE MAY ALSO HAVE DECIDED
THERE NO REAL NEED FOR VISIT TO JOLO AT THIS TIME.

7. MARCOS ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF SAQQAF VISIT TO GIVE
AMBASSADOR FULL TEXT OF GOP'S CASE AGAINST MALAYSIA. PRE-
SENTATION OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PUT UNITED STATES, AS FIREND
AND ALSO AS TREATY ALLY, ON NOTICE OF GOP'S HOUR OF NEED.
ALTHOUGH GOP HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY RESPONSE FROM US AT THIS
JUNCTURE, NOTIFICATION IS REMINISCENT OF GOP'S ADVICE TO U.S.
OF ITS QUARREL WITH MALAYSIA DURING 1968 SABAH CONFRONTATION.

8. SHORTLY AFTER MAKING PRESENTATION TO AMBASSADOR IN
STRICTEST CONFIDENCE, GOP LEAKED BITS OF REPORT TO A.P. REPRE-
SENTATIVE ARNOLD ZEITLIN. REPORT CARRIED IN STARS AND STRIPES
HERE AND RELEASED BY AP WORLDWIDE.

9. FOR GOP, VISIT MUST BE CONSIDERED AS SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS.
GOP APPEARS TO HAVE OBTAINED SAQQAF'S CONTINUED SUPPORT AT LEAST
TEMPORARILY FOR GOP'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH. WE
ALSO SUSPECT GOP MANAGED TO PERSUADE SAQQAF THAT PHILIPPINES WAS
GOOD AND DEVOTED FRIEND OF ARABS AND CONSEQUENTLY MERITED
REINSTATEMENT AS "FRIENDLY" COUNTRY FOR OIL SHIPMENT PURPOSES.
WE DOUBT THAT SPECIFICS OF OIL SHIPMENT WERE RAISED BY GOP
SINCE IT ALREADY ASSURED OF ADEQUATE, IF COSTLY, SUPPLIES
TO MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS IN 1974.

10. WHILE THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR GOP,
MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF VISIT FOR FUTURE IS FACT THAT GOP HAS
DECIDED TO SURFACE EVIDENCE OF MALAYSIAN INTERVENTION IN
MINDANAO PROBLEM. PLACING IT IN HANDS OF A.P. HAS GIVEN GOP
CHARGE WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION, WHILE RESTRICTING CHARGE TO
MALAYSIANS (EXCLUDING LIBYANS) PROBABLY INTENDED LINE UP
ARAB SUPPORT AND ISOLATE MALAYSIANS FROM INDONESIANS. GOP
MAY BE CONTENT TO LET CASE REST FOR TIME BEING ON MINOR KEY.
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SHOULD MALAYSIA RESPOND, HOWEVER, GOP WILL
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